

# DCFS Weekly Update From the State Office

Friday, July 28, 2000

## From My Perspective

*By Ken Patterson*

Each year I eagerly await the result of the DCFS Outcome Measures Report. It is one of the best measures we have for seeing how we are doing as an organization. I visited several offices last year with some "outcome" overheads and did an "outcomes" presentation at the Child Welfare Institute. Because of the very focused work of the state office data team, I have the outcome results of state fiscal year 2000 earlier than ever.

During the week of August 14, 2000, Becky Oakley from the DCFS Board Chair, Paul Vincent from the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group (CWPPG), and I will be visiting each region. I will make a presentation on our FY2000 outcomes, compare how we did with previous years, and discuss any trends that are apparent. Paul Vincent will do a presentation on the CWPPG's statewide findings of the Qualitative Case Reviews (QCRs).

We will then ask the region to present on your three best outcomes (things you excelled at) and your three most challenging outcomes (things you think you need work on). We will also ask you to identify what your principle learning was from the QCR and what strategies you have for improving on the next round of reviews.

We will also make at least some time available for hearing what's on your mind and doing question and answers. Each Region Director is selecting the site for the meeting and identifying whom should attend. Here is the schedule.

Monday, August 14—Western Region in Provo, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 15—Southwest Region in Cedar City, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 16—Eastern Region in Price, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 17—Salt Lake, Granite and Cottonwood

Overview—all regions 9:00 a.m.

Salt Lake Region breakout—10:30 a.m.

Granite Region breakout—1:00 p.m.

Cottonwood Region breakout—2:30 p.m.

Friday, August 18—Northern Region in Ogden, 9:00 a.m.

## In Other News

Governor Leavitt announced this afternoon \$180,000 in new Dependency (Child Welfare) drug court monies for the third and fourth district juvenile courts. The funds will be used to expand and improve existing programs. Judge Odone, Judge Yates, Judge Hornack from Salt Lake and Judge Lindsey from Provo received special recognition. Also singled out for recognition were DCFS staff **Annie Barrett** from Provo and **Anna Trupp** from Cottonwood as collaborating mightily on the establishing and social work orientation of the drug courts.

This week we moved under 400 children in "high cost" care for the first time in a long time.

## Qualitative Case Reviews: Some Good Results

*By Caren J. Frost*

As we move into the next round of QCRs, I wanted to take a moment and share some of the positive findings from last year's reviews. First, I want to thank the Office of Services Review and its diligent efforts in taking on the responsibility for coordinating and conducting these very useful reviews. The QCRs fall under Milestone 8 in the Performance Milestone Plan, and Craig Monson's team has done a terrific job of working with the CWPPG, as well as providing each region with timely information about the results from these reviews.

Second, we have four of the seven regional QCR reports finalized, and they are available from either me or through your Associate Region Director. We hope to have the Eastern, Granite, and Salt Lake Region QCR reports finished within the next few weeks. In addition, if you have not seen a QCR protocol or purple book and would like one, please e-mail me. We hope to have all this information on the DCFS web site in the future.

Third, there were a total of 101 cases reviewed during the QCR process. On a state level, four areas of success stand out from the data we have from the Office of Services Review. All of these areas relate to child status in the QCR protocol. In terms of safety, 80% of the cases passed the QCR! This means that for 80% of the cases, the children involved were safe. In 88% of the cases, it was found that the current placement of the child was appropriate. Meeting and maintaining physical well-being for all children was at a high 96%—in other words, in 96% of the cases, children's physical needs were being taken care of. Finally, in 95% of the cases, the caregivers were functioning at a very high level. Thus children were in appropriate placements and caregivers were handling the circumstances with these children in a professional manner.

Overall, in 41% of the cases that were reviewed (or 41 cases), the status was deemed good for the child and the agency's services were acceptable for that child's situation. While this may seem like a low number, please keep in mind that the data collected for this set of reviews was baseline or introductory. We should see an increase in these numbers next year.

Next year's review will begin in Western Region in October 2000 and will continue into May 2001. As we get closer to the start date for these QCRs, I will send out the review dates so that you will know when to expect a review in your region. Keep up the good work!

# USSDS Provider Screens (Foster Parent and Independent Living Youth)

*By Linda O'Brien and Joelle Horel*

The Office of Licensing (OL) has brought to our attention a need for clarification. OL has the responsibility of entering provider information on the USSDS PR05 and PR20 screens for any provider that requires a license. OL also has responsibility for filling out form PR519a, page 1 and 2, on any provider that has been licensed through them. There have been several instances lately when changes were made by DCFS personnel in regards to provider information (i.e., address changes, phone changes, licensing type, and date of licensure expiration).

There are a couple of exceptions to clarify:

- DCFS is responsible for entering Independent Living youth information on the PR05 and PR07 screens. The forms PR519a and PR519b should be completed by the Regional Independent Living Coordinator or designee.
- DCFS is also responsible for filling out form PR519a and entering out-of-state provider information on the PR05 and PR20 screens. This occurs only when that provider has been approved and licensed by the other state. Form PR519b for these approvals will also need to be completed and entered on the PR07 screen.

DCFS Family Resources Consultants or their designees are responsible for filling out form PR519b, which is the approval of foster parent level of care. This is determined not only by training, but also by experience, family strengths, and preferences.

We hope this clarification is helpful. If you have questions, please call Joelle Horel at 801-538-4398 or Linda O'Brien at 801-538-4642.

## Care-A-Van: Immunize by Two, It's Up to You!

*Submitted by Janeen Brazier*

The following news was submitted by Janeen Brazier and is sponsored by the Community Nursing Services, Utah Department of Health, Intermountain Health Care, KTVX 4Utah Kids, McDonald's, and Sinclair.

*The Immunization Care-A-Van offers shots free to Foster children, children birth thru 35 months, and \$5.00 for children three years and older for required school immunizations (State required vaccines will not be denied due to inability to pay. Please bring all immunizations records and medical cards for each child). Clinic available:*

*Department of Human Services  
645 East 4500 South  
Salt Lake City (in the parking lot)  
**Monday, August 14, 2000**  
**3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.***

## Utilization Review Committee

*By Caren J. Frost*

Before she left DCFS to work for the Northern Region Foster Care Citizen Review Board, Sally Tasker had begun work on standardizing the utilization reviews. Utilization reviews are those discussions surrounding cases that are what we have been calling “D” code or high cost placements. Thus far the Utilization Review Committee (URC), which is composed of seven people (but we are hoping it will grow) has met three times. The purpose of this committee is to try to develop a protocol to standardize how DCFS reviews the cases of children and youth who are in those placements for which DCFS contracts. We are beginning with the QCR protocol for some guidelines on questions to ask in these reviews.

The committee (Joelle Horel, Colleen Lasater, Cindy Lundquist, Chuck Parsons, Grant Tolley, and Scott Vincent) will be asking for some input on how reviews on contracted cases are conducted in your region. As we develop protocols and review the policies surrounding these types of review, I will let you know. Recommendations on how you are conducting these reviews effectively in your region are most welcome.

## National Child Fatality Information

*By Carol Miller*

Navina Forsythe recently shared with me a very cool web site that links to national and statewide child fatality information. The web address is <http://ican-ncfr.org/>. I hope you have a chance to visit this web site and review the valuable data it contains!